

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 248261 TOSEC 290011

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:D.MACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 248261 TOSEC 290011

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 15949 ACTION SECSTATE 06 OCT 76

QUOTE

S E C R E T LONDON 15949

NODIS

FROM SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: UK - NEXT STEPS

1. ROWLANDS TELLS ME HE INTENDS RECOMMEND FOLLOWING:

A. CALL CONFERENCE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 11.

B. ON EUROPEAN SIDE INCLUDE ONLY RHODESIAN GOVERN-
MENT BUT ATTEMPT TO FIND WAY TO ASSOCIATE OTHER
POLITICAL GROUPS WITH CONFERENCE.

C. ASSUME, AT THIS POINT, THAT NKOMO, MUZOREWA
AND MUGABE AT LEAST, WILL PARTICIPATE ON NA-
TIONALIST SIDE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 248261 TOSEC 290011

2. UK EMBASSIES IN MAPUTO, DAR ES SALAAM AND LUSAKA HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO KEEP AFTER NKOMO DURING HIS TRAVELS.

3. ROWLANDS SEES NO ALTERNATIVE TO UK GETTING "INTO THIS THING UP TO OUR NECKS." WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LIMIT ITS ROLE TO GOOD OFFICES. THIS WILL CAUSE PAIN IN LABOR GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD DISLIKE IDEA OF RUNNING RISK OF FAILURE IN WHAT IS STILL AN UNCERTAIN SITUATION. ROWLANDS, ALTHOUGH HE SEES THE PROBLEMS, IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GOING AHEAD AND IS WILLING TO RUN THE RISK.

4. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT HMG SHOULD START PLANNING NOW TO ANTICIPATE THE PREDICTABLE SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS OF THE CONFERENCE AND START DEVISING DIFFERENT FORMULAS, MANY OF THEM COSMETIC, WHICH WOULD HELP BRIDGE ANTICIPATED GAPS BETWEEN SMITH AND NATIONALISTS. AT MY SUGGESTION HE WILL PROPOSE LAYING RELATIVELY GREATER STRESS ON COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH COULD HELP OVERCOME AFRICAN RESERVATIONS ABOUT COUNCIL OF STATE.

5. ASSUMING CONFERENCE CALLED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 11, BRITISH HAVE NOT YET COME UP WITH DATE FOR CONFERENCE ITSELF. WE MAY HAVE TO PRESS THEM ON THIS ISSUE.

6. I TOLD ROWLANDS THAT USG WILL BE WILLING TO HELP IN ANY WAY IT CAN BEFORE AND DURING CONFERENCE.

7. I WILL BE MEETING WITH ROWLANDS AND DUFF TOMORROW AFTER FCO HAS CONSIDERED ROWLANDS REPORT AND AFTER PLANNED PRESENTATION TO CABINET OR AT LEAST SOME CABINET MEMBERS.
ARMSTRONG
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

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